(Conservation) Act, tribal people have no right on their own forests, water and land; and

(b) if so, whether Government would make amendment in this law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 only regulates the use of forest land for non-forestry purposes. It does not deal with the ownership or rights of the people including the tribals. However, while diverting any forest land for non-forestry activities under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, due regard is given to the impact of the project on the local people particularly the tribals.

(b) Does not arise.

Poaching in Rajaji National Park

3444. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether poaching of rare animals like musk deer, leopard and other big cats and organised "loot" of medicinal plants and precious timber have been reported in Rajaji National Park in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken against the forest guards who are in league with Mafia gangs, for organised loot of the precious wealth of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) As reported by the State Government, no poaching of musk deer, leopard or big cats has been reported in Rajaji National Park during the last five years. Although some stray cases of illicit felling of trees have been detected in the parks, no cases of organised loot of medicinal plants and precious timber has been reported.

(b) Does not arise.

Ecological Task Force

3445. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals to raise Ecological Task Force were sent by Himachal Pradesh Government;